

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising:
 - 5 detecting a wireless access point with a vehicle telematics device;
establishing a communication gateway between the detected wireless access point and a service provider utilizing the vehicle telematics device; and
communicating data between the wireless access point and the
10 service provider via the communication gateway.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the wireless access point comprises receiving a transmission from a wireless modem unit.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the wireless access point comprises:
 - transmitting a polling message; and
receiving a response to the polling message, the response
generated by the wireless access point.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication gateway between the detected wireless access point and the service provider comprises:
 - receiving identification information from the detected wireless
25 access point;
transmitting the received identification information to the service provider for authentication;
receiving a data stream for the wireless access point from the
service provider; and
30 transmitting the received data stream to the wireless access point.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
receiving a data stream for the communication gateway from the
service provider, the data stream including instructions for the communication
5 gateway; and
implementing the received instructions.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication
gateway between the detected wireless access point and the service provider
10 comprises:
establishing communication between the communication gateway
and the detected wireless access point utilizing a first communication protocol;
and
establishing communication between the communication gateway
15 and the service provider utilizing a second communication protocol.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first communication protocol is
selected from the group consisting of: 802.11 series, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, direct-
sequence spread spectrum, frequency-hopping spread spectrum, and shared
20 wireless access protocol.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the first communication protocol is a
FCC Part 15 protocol.

25 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is pre-packaged at the
service provider for compatibility with a wireless access point protocol.

10. A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising:

- 5 computer readable code for detecting a wireless access point with a vehicle telematics device;
- computer readable code for establishing a communication gateway between the detected wireless access point and a service provider utilizing the vehicle telematics device; and
- 10 computer readable code for communicating data between the wireless access point and the service provider via the communication gateway.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable code for detecting the wireless access point comprises computer readable code for directing the reception of a transmission from the wireless
15 access point.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable code for detecting the wireless access point comprises:

- 20 computer readable code for directing the transmission of a polling message; and
- computer readable code for directing the reception of a response to the polling message, the response generated by the wireless access point.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable code for establishing the communication gateway between the detected wireless access point and the service provider comprises:

- 5 computer readable code for directing the reception of identification information from the detected wireless access point;
- computer readable code for directing the transmission of the received identification information to the service provider for authentication;
- computer readable code for directing the reception of a data stream
- 10 for the wireless access point from the service provider; and
- computer readable code for directing the transmission of the received data stream to the wireless access point.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, further comprising:

- 15 computer readable code for directing the reception of a data stream for the communication gateway from the service provider, the data stream including instructions for the communication gateway; and
- computer readable code for implementing the received instructions.

20 15. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable code for establishing the communication gateway between the detected wireless access point and the service provider comprises

- computer readable code for establishing communication between the communication gateway and the detected wireless access point utilizing a
- 25 first communication protocol; and
- computer readable code for establishing communication between the communication gateway and the service provider utilizing a second communication protocol.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the first communication protocol is selected from the group consisting of: 802.11 series, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, direct-sequence spread spectrum, frequency-hopping spread spectrum, and shared wireless access protocol.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the first communication protocol is a FCC Part 15 protocol.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the data is pre-packaged at the service provider for compatibility with a wireless access point protocol.

19. A system for operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising:

- means for detecting a wireless access point with a vehicle telematics device;
- means for establishing a communication gateway between the detected wireless access point and a service provider utilizing the vehicle telematics device; and
- means for communicating data between the wireless access point and the service provider via the communication gateway.